

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for administering personal computer health status so as to provide an extensible framework in which multiple service providers can each monitor different aspects of personal computer health and provide the results to an end-user of the personal computer in a single, cohesive interface, the system comprising:

a provider subsystem for providing services relating to personal computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information of the personal computer, ~~and wherein the provider subsystem includes multiple provider modules for each acquiring the health status information for different aspects of personal computer health;~~

a health engine subsystem for processing the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications, the health engine subsystem comprising an open framework having a standardized interface allowing external service providers to each register one or more provider modules with the health engine subsystem and thereby include multiple registered provider modules from multiple external service providers within the provider subsystem, each provider module of an external service provider acquiring the health status information for a particular aspect of personal computer health, the particular aspect being different from aspects of personal computer health acquired by other provider modules; and

a client user interface subsystem for reporting overall personal computer health status of the personal computer to the end-user of the personal computer on a per computer basis and in accordance with the health status notifications.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising a provider interface for passing an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to ~~a consumer~~ the end-user of corrective actions.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises task execution coordination logic for enforcing mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

5. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises rules logic for specifying the instruction for corrective action.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the health engine subsystem specifies the instruction for corrective action automatically based upon the rules of logic.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the rules logic specifies an action based upon health status information originating from multiple providers within the provider subsystem.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises a client interface for receiving a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises a health status information store for maintaining records corresponding to the health status information.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a security health status provider module.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a privacy health status provider module.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a backup health status provider module.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a performance provider module.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the client user interface subsystem supports a user interface providing a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method for administering personal computer health status so as to provide an extensible framework in which multiple service providers can each monitor different aspects of personal computer health and provide the results to an end-user of the personal computer in a single, cohesive interface, the method comprising the steps of:

providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information of the personal computer, ~~and wherein the provider subsystem includes multiple provider modules for each acquiring the health status information for different aspects of personal computer health;~~

processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications, the health engine subsystem comprising an open framework having a standardized interface allowing external service providers to each register one or more provider modules with the health engine subsystem and thereby include multiple registered provider modules from multiple external service providers within the provider subsystem, each provider module of an external service provider acquiring the health status information for a particular aspect of personal computer health, the particular aspect being different from aspects of personal computer health acquired by other provider modules; and

reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, ~~personal computer overall~~ health status of the personal computer to a the end-user of the personal computer on a per computer basis and in accordance with the health status notifications.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:

passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a ~~consumer~~ the end-user of corrective actions.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

enforcing, by task execution coordination logic, mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:
specifying, by rules logic, the instruction for corrective action.
21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the specifying step is performed automatically based upon the rules logic.
22. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the specifying step is performed based upon health status information originating from multiple providers within the provider subsystem.
23. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:
receiving, by a client interface of the health engine subsystem, a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.
24. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:
maintaining, by a health status information store of the health engine subsystem, records corresponding to the health status information.
25. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:
providing, by a user interface of the client user interface subsystem, a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.
26. (Cancelled).

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including computer-executable instructions for administering personal computer health status so as to provide an extensible framework in which multiple service providers can each monitor different aspects of personal computer health and provide the results to an end-user of the personal computer in a single, cohesive interface, the computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the steps of:

providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information of the personal computer, ~~and wherein the provider subsystem includes multiple provider modules for each acquiring the health status information for different aspects of personal computer health;~~

processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications, the health engine subsystem comprising an open framework having a standardized interface allowing external service providers to each register one or more provider modules with the health engine subsystem and thereby include multiple registered provider modules from multiple external service providers within the provider subsystem, each provider module of an external service provider acquiring the health status information for a particular aspect of personal computer health, the particular aspect being different from aspects of personal computer health acquired by other provider modules; and

reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, ~~personal computer overall~~ health status of the personal computer to a-the end-user of the personal computer on a per computer basis and in accordance with the health status notifications.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a ~~consumer~~ the end-user of corrective actions.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

30. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

enforcing, by task execution coordination logic, mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

31. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

specifying, by rules logic, the instruction for corrective action.

32. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the specifying step is performed automatically based upon the rules logic.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the specifying step is performed based upon health status information originating from multiple providers within the provider subsystem.

34. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

receiving, by a client interface of the health engine subsystem, a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

35. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

maintaining, by a health status information store of the health engine subsystem, records corresponding to the health status information.

36. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

providing, by a user interface of the client user interface subsystem, a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

supporting, by an interface of the health engine subsystem, an extensible set of providers within the provider subsystem.

38. (Currently Amended) A system for administering personal computer health status so as to provide an extensible framework in which multiple service providers can each monitor different aspects of personal computer health and provide the results to an end-user of the personal computer in a single, cohesive interface, the system comprising:

means for providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information of the personal computer, ~~and wherein the provider subsystem includes multiple provider modules for each acquiring the health status information for different aspects of personal computer health;~~

means for processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications, the health engine subsystem comprising an open framework having a standardized interface allowing external service providers to each register one or more provider modules with the health engine subsystem and thereby include multiple registered provider modules from multiple external service providers within the provider subsystem, each provider module of an external service provider acquiring the health status information for a particular aspect of personal computer health, the particular aspect being different from aspects of personal computer health acquired by other provider modules; and

means for reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, ~~personal computer~~ overall health status of the personal computer to a-the end-user of the personal computer on a per computer basis and in accordance with the health status notifications.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38 further comprising:

means for passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to ~~a consumer~~ the end-user of corrective actions.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

41. (Original) The system of claim 39 further comprising:

means for enforcing mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

42. (Original) The system of claim 38 further comprising:
means for receiving a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.
43. (Original) The system of claim 38 further comprising:
means for maintaining records corresponding to the health status information.
44. (Original) The system of claim 38 further comprising:
means for providing a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.
45. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein reporting the personal computer health status to a user further includes providing a comparison of current performance with past performance of the same personal computer.
46. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein reporting the personal computer health status to a user further includes providing a comparison with a health status of at least one other computer in a network.
47. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:
coordinating, by the health engine subsystem, corrective actions with a current use status of the personal computer.
48. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:
invoking, by the health engine subsystem, an automatic corrective action to a detected problem, without the user's request for the corrective action.
49. (New) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the health engine subsystem is configured to receive, from the multiple provider modules, remedial actions to be performed at the personal computer to improve the overall health of the personal computer, and wherein the health system is adapted to filter the remedial actions and ensure that remedial actions from one provider module do not conflict with remedial actions from a second provider module.

50. (New) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the personal computer is in a standalone configuration.

51. (New) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the client user interface subsystem reports to the end-user corrective action for improving the health of the personal computer, and wherein when enforcing the mutual exclusion rules comprises the health engine determining that two tasks cannot be performed simultaneously and, while displaying the tasks to the end-user of the personal computer, disabling execution of one of the tasks in a client interface displayed to the end-user.

52. (New) The system of claim 4, wherein task execution coordination logic for enforcing mutual exclusion rules comprises the health engine subsystem applying a mutual exclusion algorithm to ensure that two recommended remedial actions do not render an overall negative result.

53. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the mutual exclusion algorithm times mutually exclusive remedial actions to occur sequentially.

54. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the client user interface subsystem displays unsolicited pop-up warnings to the end-user of the personal computer when the health status of the personal computer is determined to be dangerously poor by one or more of the provider modules.

55. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the multiple registered provider modules each provide a score for a respective aspect of the health of the personal computer monitored by each provider module, and wherein the overall health status of the personal computer is a composite score based on the scores of each of the multiple registered provider modules.

56. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the multiple registered provider modules include at least backup, security, firewall and anti-virus modules.